

SOUTH JOINT COMMITTEE

25 September 2008

*Held at Ettington Community Centre
Meeting commenced: 6.00 pm Meeting ended: 9.00 pm*

Present: County Councillor R Hyde (Chair) Councillors Rev N Beamer, M Beckett, S Beese, M Brain, R Cheney, R Cockings, J Dill-Russell, J Fradgley, A Gardner, S Gray, T Honychurch, P Moorse, M Perry, G Roache, K Rolfe, C Saint, V Seaman, I Seccombe, P Seccombe, J Taylor and R White

Apologies: Councillor S Beese, R Cheney and G Roache

27. Disclosure of Interests

Councillor Rolfe disclosed a Personal Interest in Minute 40 as a Governor of Alveston Primary School.

Councillor Brain disclosed a Personal Interest in Minute 40 as a Governor of Quinton Primary School.

Councillor Taylor disclosed a Personal Interests in Minute 40 as a Governor of Bishopton Primary School and in Minute 37 as a trustee of Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Councillor Gray disclosed a Prejudicial Interest in Minute 39 as the District Council's representative on Cotswold Conservation Board and Minute 33 as his wife was employed by Young Enterprise South Warwickshire (Application 782).

Councillor Saint disclosed a Personal Interest in Minute 33 (Application 782), as a Board Member of Warwickshire Education Business Partnership and a Prejudicial Interest in Minute 39 as a Member of the Cotswold Conservation Board.

Councillor P Seccombe disclosed Personal Interests in Minute 32 as he had business premises in Shipston on Stour and in Minute 40 as a Governor of Brailes Primary School.

Councillor I Seccombe disclosed Personal Interests in Minute 35 as a member of the Police Authority and Minute 40 as a Governor of Kineton Primary School.

Councillor Fradgley disclosed a Personal Interest in Minute 37 as a member of the Cultural Consortium.

Councillor Hyde disclosed Personal Interests in Minute 36 as a Board Member of Advantage West Midlands and Minute 37 as a trustee of Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

28. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 24 July were confirmed and signed.

29. Public Question Time (30 Minutes)

At the invitation of the Chairman, the following members of the public addressed the Committee:

John Lancaster – in respect of Minute 33 Young Enterprise South Warwickshire

Mr and Mrs Messenger who had submitted a letter in respect of Minute 34 - A44 Kitebrook

Mr Chippendale who had submitted a statement in respect of Minute 35 - Carters Lane, Tiddington

Mr Fairbrother in respect of Minute 35 – Main Street, Tiddington

Elizabeth Dixon in respect of Minute 36

Mr R Maddern in respect of Minute 36

Joan Platt, on behalf of Stratford Voice, in respect of Minute 37

30. Customer Access Point - Shipston on Stour

Consideration was given to a report presenting the results of the feasibility assessment for a One Stop Shop in Shipston on Stour.

Support for the proposal had come from a combination of face-to-face interviews and meetings, primary research in and around Shipston town and secondary research of existing information and data from a range of sources. The preferred option of establishing an interim one stop arrangement within the District Council's existing Telegraph Street Area Office had met with overwhelming support from the Stour Community Forum held on 9 September 2008.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED:

That the preferred option be supported and that the respective Cabinets of the District and County Councils be asked to proceed with a full cost appraisal of the proposal.

31. Report of the Stratford Joint Scrutiny Panel and the Stratford Park and Ride

Michelle McHugh (Interim Overview and Scrutiny Manager at Warwickshire County Council) attended the meeting for this item and answered Members questions raised on the report.

Consideration was given to the report from the Stratford Joint Local Area Scrutiny Panel, established by Warwickshire County Council and Stratford on Avon District Council to scrutinise parking in Stratford upon Avon town centre and the financial viability of the Stratford Park and Ride with the following objectives:

- a) To ensure that parking arrangements within the District were fair, fit for purpose for users and the local economy, and had minimal adverse impact upon users, businesses, residents and public services; and
- b) To improve the financial viability of Stratford Park and Ride by:
 - examining service provision of the Park and Ride, on-street parking and off-street parking within the district; and,
 - reviewing performance and financial information relating to the Park and Ride, on-street parking and off-street parking.

Arising from the discussion it was felt that an increase in signage and advertisement is necessary both for the Park and Ride and to indicate theatre parking, that there should be further consideration of the financial incentives for residents/businesses to use the Park and Ride, and that the proposed 'Walkable Core' proposals would naturally reduce on-street car parking spaces in the town.

Overall, members accepted that the recommendations set out in the report would provide a framework for the development of future parking policy by the County and District Councils.

Members requested an opportunity to further discuss the options for the 'Walkable Core' at a future meeting.

Having regard to the above discussions it was, by 9 votes to 8,

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Stratford Joint Local Area Scrutiny Panel be forwarded to the respective Cabinets for consideration.

Note: The following Councillors requested that it be recorded that they had not supported the recommendations; Councillors Cockings, Dill-Russel, Fradgley, Honychurch, Moorse, Rolfe and Taylor

32. Off-Street Parking Charges

Robert Walsh (Head of Community Services at the District Council) attended the meeting for this item and answered Members questions raised on the report.

Consideration was given to a report on the proposed charging levels for off-street parking operated by the District Council that had been developed by a project group having representation from both the County and District Councils. In developing the proposals the group had;

- a) benchmarked the service against similar areas where civil enforcement arrangements were in place;
- b) consulted with key stakeholders on their preferences;
- c) consulted with residents and organisations on proposed policy objectives; and
- d) sought to integrate existing objectives adopted by the Council.

The Committee was asked to forward its views and preferences on the options contained within the report to the District Council's Cabinet.

During the discussions a variety of views were expressed about the need for an equitable approach to charging across the District and the potential economic impact of parking charges should they be introduced in the market towns. A formal proposal was made that the Committee would favour the development of an updated joint parking strategy as recommended by the Scrutiny Group and that any short term change in off-street parking charges should be consistent with the approach set out in their report. However, on being put to the vote this proposal was declared lost.

Accordingly, with no views being expressed in a form that commanded support from a majority of those present, it was

RESOLVED:

That the report be received.

33. Community Grants

The Committee was advised of the decisions taken by the East and West Joint Committees in respect of this grant application. It was also provided with additional information as requested at the previous meeting (Minute 20 (2008/09) refers).

Having regard to the additional information made available, the offer of grant authorised, together with reason for the decision, is set out below.

Applicant: (782)	Young Enterprise South Warwickshire
Project:	Provide educational programs in primary and secondary schools to help young people understand and give them personal experience of how business works.
Total Cost:	£21,250
Grant Requested:	£1,440 (36% of the total request for £4,000)
Grant Approved:	£1,440
Reason For decision:	The scheme supports objectives in the District Council's Grants scheme and the District Council's Corporate Aims.

34. Speed Limit Review

Jo Edwards (Senior Road Safety Engineer at the County Council) attended the meeting for this item and answered members questions raised on the report.

Consideration was given to a report detailing objections that had been received to new speed restrictions within the Committee's area.

The following persons had addressed the Committee in respect of the proposed speed restriction for the road indicated:

Mr and Mrs Messenger – A44 Kitebrook, Little Compton. Ms Edwards undertook to provide a full response to the letter submitted.

Each of the speed limit reviews were considered by the Committee in the knowledge that

- the Police only had very limited resources for enforcing existing or new speed limits; and
- any amendments to the proposed speed limit changes would need to meet the criteria of the Speed Management Strategy adopted by the County Council's Cabinet in September 2007.

In respect of the review of the proposal not to change the speed limit on the B4035 Campden Road, Shipston on Stour, an objection had been received from Councillor Cheney, who had asked that the 50mph limit originally proposed be supported. The Committee supported this proposal to reduce the speed limit to 50mph (edge of Shipston on Stour to Fosse Way) and asked that the necessary procedures for advertising a change in speed limit be commenced.

Having regard to the above, it was

RESOLVED:

(1) That the proposed speed limits reviews for the following be supported:

1. S/1 A3400 Birmingham Road, Stratford upon Avon (drawing no. SLR/S/1/G) – proposed speed limit: 30mph;
2. S/1 A3400 Shipston Road (drawing no. SLR/S/1/J) - proposed speed limit: 50mph;
3. S/4 A422 Banbury Road, Ettington to Pillerton Priors (drawing no. SLR/S/4/D) - proposed speed limit: 50mph;
4. S/11 A44 London Road (drawing no. SLR/S/11) - proposed speed limit: 50mph;
5. S/13 B4035 Campden Road, Shipston on Stour (drawing no. SLR/S/13/B) - proposed speed limit: 30mph;
6. S/13 B4035 Brailes Road, Shipston on Stour to Upper Brailes (drawing no. SLR/S/13/D) - proposed speed limit: 50mph;
7. S/25 B439 Bordon Hill, Stratford upon Avon (drawing no. SLR/S/25/B) – proposed speed limit: 40 mph;
8. S/30 B4632 Campden Road (drawing no. SLR/S/30/A) – proposed speed limit: 50 mph;
9. S/13 B4035 Holloway Hill, Lower Brailes (drawing no. SLR/S/13/F) – proposed speed limit: 50mph

(2) In respect of the speed limit on B4035 Campden Road, Shipston on Stour, that the procedure to reduce the speed limit to 50mph be implemented, in accordance with the preamble above.

Note

In respect of 4 and 9 above, the Committee requested that Oxfordshire County Council should be contacted and made aware of the decision.

35. Changes to Waiting Restrictions

Consideration was given to proposed changes to waiting restrictions within the District as contained within Appendix 1 to the report and for the following sites:

- (1) Avenue Road and Benson Road, Stratford upon Avon - Proposal for No Waiting At Any Time, No Waiting Mon-Sat 8am-6pm and Limited Waiting 2hrs No Return Within 2 hrs. Mon-Sat 8am-6pm
- (2) Carters Lane, Tiddington - Proposal for No Waiting At Any Time
- (3) Main Street, Tiddington - Proposal for No Waiting At Any Time for the section of road outside the Post Office which is divided by a central refuge.
- (4) Trevelyan Crescent, Stratford upon Avon - Proposal for No Waiting At Any Time

The Committee had been addressed by:

Mr C Fairbrother in respect of Carters Lane, Tiddington; and,
Mr Chippendale in respect of Main Street, Tiddington

In respect of the (3) above, a motion not to support the restriction was tabled. The Committee considered that the current parking availability and the location of the keep left bollard aided highway safety as they effectively slowed traffic down.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposed waiting restrictions within the district as contained in Appendix 1 to the report be made as advertised except as mentioned in (2) below
- (2) That in respect of Main Street, Tiddington that
 - a. the waiting restriction not be implemented;
 - b. the allocation of funds from the 2009/10 maintenance and safety budget for a feasibility study and suitable engineering measures be supported; and,
 - c. Warwickshire Police be asked to carry out enforcement of the deliberate contravention of the keep left arrow.

36. Lucy's Mill Bridge - Feasibility Study

Consideration was given to the two feasibility reports completed in November 2006 and March 2008 on the upgrading of Lucy's Mill Footbridge.

At the invitation of the Chair, Elizabeth Dixon re-addressed the Committee on the necessity for Lucys Mill Bridge or any alternative crossing to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be noted; and,
- (2) That the results of a further investigation into whether the bridge could lawfully be constructed without meeting accessibility standards in light of a Disabilities Discrimination Act complaint be reported to the next meeting.

37. Strategy for concessions, events and attractions on public spaces in Stratford-upon-Avon

Consideration was given to the strategy to define the type, quality and subsequent management of concessions, events and attractions on public spaces in Stratford-upon-Avon.

At the invitation of the Chair, Andrew Ormston (RGA Consulting), Helen Smith (Estates Surveyor, SDC) and Fiona Rae (Events and Festival Co-ordinator, SDC) addressed the Committee and answered questions.

A detailed discussion on the proposals confirmed the need for careful consideration as to the suitability of the concessions allowed in respect of such issues as the wish to promote healthy eating and the vitality of the local economy.

It was formally proposed that the District Council should consider disengagement from its relationship with RGA Consulting and that alternative partnership working be looked at. On being put to the vote this proposal was not supported and accordingly, it was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the actions proposed to determine the future range and type of events being suggested for the Recreation Ground and town centre land owned by the District Council in Stratford upon Avon be supported; and
- (2) That the licence concessions which emerge from the work being carried out by RGA Consulting be forwarded to the District Council's Cabinet.

38. Rollright Quarry Routing Agreement

Consideration was given to the proposed Rollright Quarry Routing Agreement, which would remove the potential for Heavy Goods Vehicles from the quarry to go through Little Compton.

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

That a routing agreement under the provisions of Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the well-being power in section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 removing the potential for Heavy Goods Vehicles from Rollright Quarry to go through Little Compton be authorised.

39. Cotswold Conservation Board Grant Settlement

Councillors Gray and Saint, having disclosed Prejudicial Interests, left the meeting prior to the discussion.

The Committee considered a request from Cotswold Conservation Board for the District Council to write to DEFRA and Natural England to seek a fairer grant settlement for the special landscape area.

The Committee requested that both Councils should write in support of a fairer settlement.

Subsequently, it was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Cotswold Conservation Board report entitled 'Comparison of purpose and resources between Conservation Boards, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnerships and National Park Authorities' be endorsed; and,
- (2) That the District and County Councils write to Natural England, DEFRA, the relevant Secretary of State, and John Maples MP to express their support for:
 - the criteria for applying funding to the Cotswold Conservation Board in exercising its responsibilities for the stewardship of the AONB being made clear and transparent; and
 - the funding provision for the Cotswold Conservation Board being made fair in comparison to other AONBs, whether constituted as Partnerships or Boards.

40. Provision of Primary Schools Places in Stratford upon Avon town

The Committee considered a report on the provision of primary school places in Stratford upon Avon town.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report be noted; and,
- (2) That the County Council Cabinet be asked to approve formal consultation by the Local Authority on proposals to increase the capacity of the Willows C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 40 to 45 pupils per year and Alveston C of E (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 20 to 30 pupils per year with effect from September 2010, and a

targeted review of primary school priority areas in the town of Stratford upon Avon.

41. Flood Risk Management

The Committee was provided with an update on the work undertaken by the Environment Agency and other agencies following the July 2007 floods.

The Committee acknowledged and welcomed the offer by the Environment Agency to attend the Joint Committee at a future date. In furtherance of this, the Committee asked Councillors Dill-Russell and Saint to co-ordinate the specific issues needing to be addressed by the Agency and to liaise with Dave Tiley (SDC) to ensure they are incorporated into the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Environment Agency be requested to attend the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

42. Items for future meetings

In addition to those items noted under minute 26 (2008/09) it was agreed that the following topic be identified for future discussion:

Highways and street scene – Control of street paraphernalia and fly posting.

CHAIR